GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

Enquiries & Investigation – Illegal export of PDS rice in Andhra Pradesh - Constitution of Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the cases registered in Kakinada District and other related offences - Orders – Issued.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (SC.D) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.2103 Dated:06.12.2024.

Read the following:

1) From of Director General Of Police, Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri, Letter Rc.No. 2882 /L&O-III/2024, dated: 05.12.2024.
2) From the Director General, (Vigilance & Enforcement) & Ex-Officio Principal Secretary to Govt., GA (V&E) Department, C.No.14/V&E/DG Peshi/2024, dated:05.12.2024

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ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Director General of Police, Andhra Pradesh has informed that incidents of illegal export of PDS rice in Andhra Pradesh have sparked widespread concern and alarm across the State and those incidents highlight the urgent need for focused investigation to take stern legal action against all such culprits.

2. While stating the above, the DGP, AP, has requested to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to conduct a detailed and comprehensive investigation into the following (13) cases of illegal export of PDS rice registered in Kakinada District.

Sl.No.	FIR/Crime No. & date	Police Station
1.	FIR No.157/2024, dated:09.07.2024	Karapa Police Station, Kakinada district
2.	Crime No.190/2024, dated:12.07.2024	Coringa Police Station, Kakinada
3.	FIR No.374/2024, dated:11.07.2024	Sarpavaram Police Station, Kakinada Rural Mandal
4.	Crime No.158/2024, dated:09.07.2024	Karapa Police Station, Kakinada district
5.	FIR No.210/2024, dated:08.07.2024	Port Police Station, Kakinada
6.	Crime No.211/2024, dated:08.07.2024	Port Police Station, Kakinada
7.	FIR No.214/2024, dated:10.07.2024	Port Police Station, Kakinada

8.	FIR No.225/2024, dated:30.06.2024	Indrapalem Police Station, Kakinada
9.	FIR No.373/2024, dated:11.07.2024	Sarpavaram Police Station, Kakinada Rural Mandal
10.	FIR No.209/2024, dated:07.07.2024	Port Police Station, Kakinada
11.	FIR No.212/2024, dated:08.07.2024	Port Police Station, Kakinada
12.	FIR No.221/2024, dated:19.07.2024	Port Police Station, Kakinada
13.	FIR No.222/2024, dated:22.07.2024	Port Police Station, Kakinada

3. Further, in the report 2nd read above, the DG, V&E has informed that investigation was launched in response to repeated grievances from stakeholders, including beneficiaries, civil society groups, and public representatives regarding the organized smuggling of PDS rice to other countries illegally.

4. The DG, V&E has informed that investigation into the Public Distribution System (PDS) has revealed a deeply entrenched network of inefficiencies, corruption, and organized criminal activities and the most alarming revelation is the organized illegal export of subsidized rice, which has evolved into a sophisticated operation involving millers, exporters, and influential individuals with deep political connections.

5. The DG, V&E has further informed that subsidized rice is either polished to enhance its appearance or rebranded with falsified labels to resemble premium export-quality rice and the alterations enable the rice to fetch significantly higher prices in international markets, particularly in African countries where demand is high and the Exporters, often working in collusion with Custom House Agents (CHAs), falsify documentation to misrepresent the rice as non-subsidized varieties like "parboiled" or "broken" rice, concealing its origin. The DG, V&E has informed that the operation exploits weak enforcement mechanisms at key export hubs, including the ports of Kakinada, Krishnapatnam, and Chennai and recommended for entrusting this scam to a specialized agency for investigation.

6. Government have examined the issue and observed that the smuggling network operates with alarming efficiency, exploiting the very systems meant to ensure food security for the state's most vulnerable populations and have considered it necessary to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate and unravel the full extent of the malpractices; identify the key perpetrators; and ensure robust legal action against the concerned individuals.

7. Accordingly, the Government hereby constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the cases of illegal export of PDS rice registered in

Kakinada District mentioned at para (2) above and other related offences with the following officers:-

Sl.No.	Details of officers	Role
1.	Sri Vineet Brij Lal, IPS, IGP, CID	Head
2.	Sri B. Uma Maheswar, IPS, SP, CID	Member
3.	Sri T. Ashok Vardhan, DSP, C.O. Waiting	Member
4.	Sri M.Balasundara Rao, DSP, C.O. Waiting	Member
5.	Sri R.Govinda Rao, DSP, C.O. Waiting	Member
6.	Sri M.Rathaiah, DSP, C.O. Waiting	Member

8. The SIT may call for relevant information and assistance from any Department of the Government in the course of the investigation. All Government departments shall cooperate with the SIT in discharge of its duties and duly submit any information or technical assistance called for.

9. The SIT shall have all the powers of investigation as provided under 'The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, including:

i. Search, Seizure and examination of witnesses and documents.

ii.Arrest and detention of accused persons, subject to applicable law.

10. The Spl.Chief Secretary /Prl.Secretary/ Secretary to Govt., Home Dept., and all other Departments of the Government shall provide necessary assistance to the SIT for proper discharge of its functions.

11. The SIT shall submit fortnightly report of progress to the Government.

12. The Director General of Police, A.P. shall take immediate necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To:
The Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department.
The Director General of Police, A.P., Mangalagiri.
All the members of the Special Investigation Team.
Copy to:
All the Spl.C.S/Prl. Secy./Secretary to Govt., of
Secretariat Departments.

The Prl.Secy,/Secy./Addl.Secy., to HCM.
The Pay and Accounts Officer, A.P.
The P.S. to Chief Secretary/Secretary (Political).
SC/SFs.

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER (SC)